

(including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 20-0778.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel pending claims 1-16.

Please add the following new claims 17-36.

17. (Newly Added) A system for transmitting billing information to a communication device, comprising:

receiving means operatively associated with the communication device for receiving data transmitted via electromagnetic waves; and

a remote access unit having a memory configured to store user identification data required to access the communication device and a low-power transmitter adapted to transmit the user identification data to the receiving means when the remote access unit is within a close proximity to the receiving means, the remote access unit further comprising a manually-operated transmit button and a controller, responsive to the transmit button, to controllably retrieve user identification data from the memory and transmit the user identification data via the low-power transmitter.

18. (Newly Added) The system as defined in claim 17, wherein the user identification data comprises a financial account number.

19. (Newly Added) The system as defined in claim 17, wherein the user identification data comprises a long distancing billing account number.

20. (Newly Added) The system as defined in claim 17, wherein the receiving means receives electromagnetic data in a wavelength selected from the group consisting of:

radio frequency;

ultrasonic; and

infra-red.

21. (Newly Added) The system as defined in claim 17, wherein electronic circuitry that carries out the functionality of the remote access unit is contained within a single integrated circuit.

22. (Newly Added) The system as defined in claim 17, wherein the remote access unit comprises means for formatting the user identification data into a data packet for transmission to the receiving means.

23. (Newly Added) The system as defined in claim 17, wherein the remote access unit further comprises a second transmit button.

24. (Newly Added) The system as defined in claim 17, wherein the communication device is one selected from the group consisting of: a telephone, a modem, an ISDN converter, and a cable box.

25. (Newly Added) The system as defined in claim 17, wherein the close proximity is more specifically defined as meaning within several feet.

26. (Newly Added) A method for transmitting information to a communication device, comprising the steps of:

retrieving predefined user identification information from an internal memory of a remote access unit, wherein the user identification information is required to access the communication device;

formatting the retrieved user identification information into a predefined signal for transmission to the communication device when the remote access unit is within a close proximity to the communication device; and

transmitting a low-power electromagnetic signal, comprising the formatted user identification information, to the communication device.

27. (Newly Added) The method as defined in claim 26, further comprising the steps of: extracting the user identification information contained within the transmitted signal; and transmitting the extracted user identification information for authorization to access the communication device.

28. (Newly Added) The method as defined in claim 27, further comprising the step of authorizing use of the communication device, based upon information received in response to the step of transmitting the extracted user identification information for authorization.

29. (Newly Added) The method as defined in claim 26, wherein the step of transmitting a low-power electromagnetic signal comprises transmitting a low-power radio frequency signal.

30. (Newly Added) A system for providing remote access to a communication device, comprising:

a receiver associated with the communication device and configured to receive data transmitted via electromagnetic waves;

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a remote access unit having a memory configured to store user identification data required to access the communication device and a low-power transmitter adapted to transmit the user identification data to the receiver when the remote access unit is within a close proximity to the receiver, the remote access unit further comprising a manually-operated transmit button and a controller, responsive to the transmit button, to controllably retrieve user identification data from the memory and transmit the user identification data via the low-power transmitter.

31. (Newly Added) The system as defined in claim 30, wherein the communication device comprises a magnetic card reader.

32. (Newly Added) A computer readable storage medium containing program code for controlling the operation of a system for transmitting billing information to a communication device, comprising:

receiving means for receiving data transmitted via electromagnetic waves; and

a remote access unit having a memory configured to store user identification data required to access the communication device and a low-power transmitter adapted to transmit the user identification data to the receiving means when the remote access unit is within a close proximity to the receiving means, the remote access unit further comprising a manually-operated transmit button and a controller, responsive to the transmit button, to controllably retrieve user identification data from the memory and transmit the user identification data via the low-power transmitter.

33. (Newly Added) A computer readable storage medium containing program code for transmitting user identification information to a communication device, wherein the user identification information is required to access the communication device, the program code comprising the steps of:

depressing a manually-operative transmit button of a remote access unit;

retrieving predefined user identification information from an internal memory of the remote access unit;

formatting the retrieved user identification information into a predefined signal for transmission; and

transmitting a low-power electromagnetic signal, including the formatted user identification information, when the remote access unit is within a close proximity to the communication device.

34. (Newly Added) The computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 33, wherein the program code further comprises the steps of:

extracting the user identification information contained within the transmitted signal; and
transmitting the extracted user identification information for authorization to access the communication device.

35. (Newly Added) The computer readable storage medium of claim 34, wherein the program code further comprises the step of authorizing use of the communication device, based upon information received in response to the step of transmitting the extracted user identification information for authorization.

36. (Newly Added) A system for providing remote access to a communication device, comprising:

a financial institution, wherein the communication device is disposed for communication with the financial institution via a telecommunication link;

a remote access device having a single user-depressible button, a memory configured to store user identification data required to access the communication device, a low-power transmitter, and a controller configured to control the transmitter to transmit track one and track two data in direct response to a manual depression of the user-depressible button, without any verification of user identification data, the controller being configured to control the transmitter to transmit a plurality of synchronization bits preceding the user identification data; and